

EPA to Begin Mayflower Study

22 Jan 1985

SALT LAKE—The Environmental Protection Agency has allocated 1.2 million dollars to the state of Utah for study and administration cost of 4 sites in Utah that are on the hazardous waste list.

Marv Maxell, director of Hazardous Waste Removal, stated that the money had been earmarked by the EPA, for four sites. The Mayflower Tailings, and the Olsen-Neihardt Ponds, are among the sites to receive special consideration.

"We will take the lead on the sites," said Maxell. "We develop work plans on those four sites, and help with the investigation."

The remedial investigation is a study of the materials, and what the actual pollution effect will be on the environment. The year long study includes a characterization of the materials around the contaminated area, and monitor of air quality, and water quality.

Probably the longest testing will be done on the water quality. Determining the well sites, well

drilling, and the monitoring for a year, will take almost a year to complete.

"If the contamination is determined to be severe," said Maxell, "then, remedial action will be taken."

"In some cases we have a single source that is causing a concern," explained Maxell. "Others is more than just one source of pollution."

Maxell explained that the money obtained from EPA, would be used for the study, and some administration costs by state department.

Maxell pointed out that in the long run, it would be more economical if all the parties concerned were to do their own remedial study.

If the private sector chooses not to conduct the Remedial Investigations, then the state would be complied to do the study, at which point, Maxell states that there would be some top notch people assigned to study the problems, and come up with some solutions.

Site inspection will begin

sometime this spring and summer. Following the study, a resolution would be pronounced, and the parties responsible for a hazard would be obligated to clear up the problem.

Maxell then explained the reason for the intermediary position the Utah Department has in the process, as a liability issue. Each site has to be studied, and documented. The department would be a third party to the study, and verify the findings of the Remedial Study.

When the final decision is made as to the proper clean-up procedure, then the legal documentation will come into play. Maxell said that the companies involved would be held responsible for treatment of the waste sites.

Clark Mower of Bingham Engineering, representing the Mayflower/Stitchings Group, said that the study of the sites are a step in the right direction, and that Bingham Engineer would be willing to work with the Hazardous Waste Department on the study.

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